sick industries, to revive the sick industries to, protect the interests of the workers in the industries. The three main objectives, directives, laid down in the CMP on the question of amendment of the SICA are to revamp, revive and to protect the interests of workers. Now, in the Bill which is introduced on the instruction of the IMF, nothing is mentioned about the revival of the industries; nothing is mentioned about the revamping of the industries. The quasi-judicial authority of the Board i.e. BIFR is sought, through the Bill, to be withdrawn, deleted. In the existing law, it is provided that a factory will be referred, to the BIFR only when its worth becomes negative by making continuous losses. Now, in the Bill it is provided that any creditor financial institution may appeal that a company is in default to pay dues for two years or one year and it can be referred. And the right of appeal to the higher court is being withdrawn, the right of appeal to the High Court is being withdrawn; the right of appeal to the apex court is being withdrawn, under the provisions of the Bill. If the Bill is passed, then the liquidation of companies will be automatic; the winding up of companies will be automatic. Section 25 of the Industrial Disputes Act negates it by itself.

I would like to tell the Government humbly that the Bill will have far-reaching repercussions if pursued with. We are with the Government and our difference is also known. We are a Party of workers. We cannot agree with any provisions which hamper the interests of workers and industries. Therefore, I would request the Government through you, Sir, to re-consider the Bill, even not to proceed with the Bill. We should not be blamed later. Even if it is pursued with, it may not be possible for us to support the Bill. We may have to, we may be compelled to, vote against the Bill if it is possible. Therefore, I once again draw the attention of the Government to the fact that all this has been done at the instance and instruction of the IMF. It should be stopped.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): May I request the Minister to communicate our feelings to the Government, Sir? This is a Zero Hour Mention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Jibon Roy has said that he is in the Government. But I do not think that he is in the Government. He is in the Treasury Benches. (*Interruptions*). I know. There are others. He has to associate himself. Shri Bratin Sengupta.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): I associate myself with Mr. Jibon Roy, Sir. Thank you.

RE. NEWS-ITEM ABOUT LATA MANGESHKAR'S SINGING AT MIDNIGHT SESSION AND OPENING OF A BOTTLE.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Sir, I rise with a sense of deep anguish to bring to the notice of the House facts that have appeared in the newspapers over the last two days. We are all celebrating the 50th year of freedom. It has become the watchword today, and perhaps, the most solemn part of the entire celebration is the function in the Central Hall of Parliament on the 14th midnight, when we are supposed to be rekindling the spirit of patriotism and the entire freedom movement. Sir, I am not involved with any of the Committees. I may be corrected if I am wrong. But I am quoting reports which have widely appeared. Mr. Bommai, we are told, is the Chairman of the National Celebration Committee, while no less a person than the Home Minister, is the Chairman of the Cabinet Committee for the Celebration. They are not ordinary people. They should be knowing what is happening. Now, I would like to quote something. "After Lata Mangeshkar, the Nightingale of India, sings *Sare Jahan Se Acha* in Parliament, and after she has sung those famous lines, she will open a bottle of a particular

drink, known as the champagne of all soft drinks, as a special contribution to CRY, which is an organisation for neglected children." Sir, I am on this point. What are the celebrations coming to? The most haloed spot in this nation, I believe, is the Central Hall of Parliament which gave us our Constitution. When we sit there, we sit there with a sense of awe. Of course, these days we sit and eat a lot of things. But to have the midnight session reduced to an advertising stunt for a particular drink being sold in his country by a multinational, and to have no less a person than Lata Mangeshkar pop up like a champagne bottle at the midnight cork session, is I think, a disgrace, and I bow my head in shame. Sir, I was so anguished that I could not believe these reports. Early morning today, I rang up the Prime Minister. I said: "Sir, I am reading these reports. What is this about?" He said: "I have not heard about it. I am hearing about it for the first time." Doesn't his Press Attache or whoever it is, even say what is in the newspapers? Don't they point it out to him that these are the advertisements which are appearing, which hurt any Indian? After the Nightingale sings *Sare Jahan Se Acha* and spread an emotion called freedom, with fifty-thousand Indians, and with this the bottle that she will open—I am not giving publicity to the name of the drink or to the company because that is in the papers. But in a live telecast, for you to do things like this, is not only shameful, I think this country has to take you to task as a Government if you have allowed a programme like this to be telecast. I take a very serious objection to this and I am putting just three questions. Was the permission of the Government sought? Who sought the permission and who gave the permission? I would like a specific answer who specifically gave that permission. If the Government says that they know nothing about it, then I am sorry, I think you have no right to govern from Parliament House. You have got to know what is happening in the Central Hall. You cannot just say that you are helpless. I do not know. How can you allow a multinational to use the haloed precincts of the Central Hall on the night of 14th August when we talked about *swadesi*, when our people gave their lives to protect this country's interest, to allow a thing like this to happen? Sir, I hope for once, I am wrong, and I would very gladly like to be corrected if I am wrong. But if I am right, I demand from this Government that within the next twenty-four hours, this be put right. Lata Mangeshkar is a great woman. She has a place of her own in our culture and tradition, and if she has agreed to become an advertising agent for this particular drink, as part of the celebrations, if she has committed that she will advertise it, then I think she has no option but to drop out all the programmes rather than use the Central Hall to advertise this drink.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): I would like to make a brief submission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I have a list before me. Mr. Malhotra, let other Members who have been permitted, have their say. Every time you are standing up. (*Interruptions*). Let them say something.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I don't know what is happening to our country. I don't know what is happening to the Parliament. There have to be certain minimum norms. We are violating each and every norm. What is happening? What we are celebrating tommorrow in the midnight is something which comes only once in fifty years. We will celebrate it again after fifty years. It is a historic occasion. A lot of emotion is involved in it. We are all looking

forward to this occasion. And what is happening? The whole nation will be watching this programme.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Not only the whole nation but the whole world will be watching this programme because this programme is there on the Star TV.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: The whole world will be watching this programme. Now when the whole world will be watching this programme you create an opportunity for a soft-drink making company to advertise a product? Nothing can be more shameful than this. I demand this programme should be immediately scrapped. There is no question of any discussion on this and there is no question of any consideration on this, more so, for two reasons. Firstly, we should not allow the Parliament to be a platform for cheap publicity, any kind of publicity. Secondly, we are publicising the product of a multinational company. What is this? I know a lot of talk like liberalisation is going on. This is the ultimate product of liberalisation. Are we going to sell our national prestige, national pride for getting money from multinational companies? I request you to take the opinion of the House, to take the sense of the House. Today at 4.30 P.M. the Speaker has called a meeting of the leaders to discuss the celebrations of 14th. When we, the leaders of the House, are going for the meeting, we should have the mendate of the House to say categorically that as far as Rajya Sabha is concerned, we don't want this programme to proceed. If this programme is permitted we will boycott the whole programme. This is the question. If this programme is on the show tomorrow in the midnight, at the sacred hour, we will be boycotting this programme. Thank you.

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे (महाराष्ट्र) : बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद आपको ।

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त) : सदर साहब, मैं बिल्कुल मुख्तसर लफ्जों में एसोसिएट करना चाहता हूं ..... (**व्यवधान**) ...

†آخری سکندر بخت : صدر صاحب - میں بالکل مختصر لفظوں میں ایسوسی ایٹ کرنا چاہتا ہوں ۔

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश की सांस-कोकिल श्रीमती लता मंगेशकर देश को आजादी की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर मिडनाइट सेशन के बीच केन्द्रीय कक्ष में आकर "सारे जहां से अच्छा" राष्ट्रगान गाकर हमें और देश को गौरवान्वित करने जा रही है । हमें उन पर नाज है । हम उनका तहेदिल से स्वागत करते है । लेकिन अत्यंत ही दुख के साथ आज मुझे यहां पर आपके सामने खड़े होकर कुछ शब्द कहने की जरूरत महसूस हो रही है । श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा ने जैसे अभी कहा और मैंने भी कुछ अखबारों में पढ़ा वह यह पढ़ा कि ऐसे ऐतिहासिक अवसर पर मल्टीनेशनल कंपनी के पेय की कोई बोतल खोलकर देश की आजादी की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ हम केन्द्रीय कक्ष में मनाने जा रहे हैं । यह जो खबर है यह खबर बड़ी डिस्टर्बिंग खबर है । इसी से मुझे लगा कि मैंने आपसे कुछ कहना चाहिए । मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी कि सरकार ऐसे अवसर पर ऐसी कोई हरकत न करे कि एक महान कलाकार से इस प्रकार की हरकत करवाएं । न तो यह हरकत सरकार के सम्मान में है और न ही उस महान कलाकार के सम्मान में है । इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि मल्टीनेशनल कंपनी के पेय की बोतल सेंट्रल हाल में श्रीमती लता जी के गान के बाद जो खुलने जा रही है अगर इस प्रकार की हरकत की आपने मंजूरी दी है तो यह मंजूरी मुझे लगता है कि हमारे जैसे लोगों के लिए जिन्होंने अपने प्राणों की

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

आहुति देकर इस देश को आजादी दिलाई थी, ऐसे परिवार के लोगों के लिए बड़ी शर्म की बात होगी कि केन्द्रीय कक्ष में होने जा रहे एक महान प्रसंग पर उपस्थित रहकर वे इस प्रकार की चीज को अपनी खुली आखों से देखें। हमें शर्म से कहने के लिए यह प्रसंग नहीं होगा लेकिन शर्म से हमारा माथा झुकेगा क्योंकि जिस केन्द्रीय कक्ष के बारे में हम लोग डॉक्टर आंबेडकर को पलटे उलटकर अब कुछ बातें करते हैं तो उसी कक्ष में ऐसी हरकत होगी। हमें शर्म से झुक जाना पड़ेगा। मुझे यह दुख के साथ कहना पड़ेगा कि ऐसे अवसर पर हम लोग उस फंकशन में शरीक न होते हुए इसका बहिष्कार करना चाहेंगे और बहिष्कार मेरे जैसे ही नहीं बल्कि सारा सदन ऐसी घटना पर बहिष्कार करने के लिए तैयार रहेगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I think the whole House will associate itself with this issue.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : सदर साहिब, मैं दो मिनट से ज्यादा नहीं लूंगा। ..... **(व्यवधान)** ....

[1] بیتاوردھی دل شہری سکندر بخت:
صدر صاحب۔ میں دو منٹ سے زیادہ
نہیں لونگا ... "مداخلت" ...

If it is true, it is absolutely disgusting. We will not only boycott the function, we will not allow this sort of a thing to happen. It has got to be stopped. That is all I have to say.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, may I clarify?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Minister, do you want to deny it? If you want to deny it, then there should be no debate.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया (बिहार) उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत शर्म की बात है कि जिस लता मंगेशकर... **(व्यवधान)**.. जिस लता मंगेशकर को "ए मेरे वतन के लोगो" के नाम से जाना जाता है, उसको किसी फिल्मी गानों में नहीं जाना जाता, उस लता मंगेशकर ने इस राष्ट्रीय पर्व में जो हमारा स्वतंत्रता राष्ट्रीय पर्व है और यह जब हम इसकी 50वीं वर्षगांठ मनाने जा रहे हैं तो यह राष्ट्रीय पर्व मनाया जा रहा है और उस पर्व के दिन ऐसा निर्देश किसने दिए और किसने मांगा और इसके साथ जूही चावला, अनिल कपूर, रवीना टंडन और कमल हसन इन लोगों के दस्तखत हैं। अफसोस की बात है इस बोतल पर लिखा है: "फ्रीडम सेलिब्रेशन" और यह लिखने वाले लोगों को पहले पूछो कि इस मुल्क को आजाद करने के लिए लोगों के पास पीने के लिए पानी तक नहीं था और आज शैंपेन की बात की जा रही है। यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है। अभी हम साढ़े पांच लाख गांवों में पीने का पानी उपलब्ध नहीं करा सके हैं। हम गोल्डन जुबली पर्व करने जा रहे हैं और उस दिन यहां शैंपेन की बोतल खोली जा रही है। इससे बड़ा घिनौना काम, इससे बड़ा मजाक हम क्या कर सकते हैं? .... **(व्यवधान)** महोदय, मैं इस सदन से सहमत होते हुए वह वाकआउट करने की बात मैं नहीं कहता हूं, वाकआउट तो हम बाद में करेंगे, पहले तो हम यहां इस फंकशन को चलने ही नहीं देंगे। .... **(व्यवधान)** हम इस फंकशन को चलने नहीं देंगे अगर यह प्रोग्राम विदड्रा नहीं किया गया।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): The Minister wants to say something. (*Interruptions*). The Minister wants to react. The whole House wants to associate itself with this issue.

श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं इतनी बात कहना चाहती हूं कि भारतीय संस्कृति की अपनी महानता है। ऐसे उत्सव मनाने के लिए हमारे

[1] Transliteration in Arabic script.

अपने परिधि हैं । ...(व्यवधान) ऐसे यहां ला कर यह हमारी संस्कृति को बदनाम करने की हो रहा है । यह बिल्कुल गलत है और यह होना ही नहीं चाहिए बल्कि इसे होने देना भी नहीं चाहिए ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): The whole House is agitated about it. Let the Minister say something.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission, may I in all humility clarify it? Whatever is to happen on 14th night is completely under the control of both the Houses and the Presiding Officers. The Government does not have any say in the matter.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Is there no Parliamentary Affairs Minister? Does he not know anything? What is the Parliamentary Affairs Minister doing? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the Presiding Officers alone are not taking decisions. There is the General Purpose Committee. There are... (*In.. (Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Let the Minister complete. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Who took this decision?

SHRI K. R. MALKANI (Delhi): Whatever is going to happen tomorrow, ..(*Interruptions*) You alone are responsible. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Malkani, you are so old. You are one generation older than me. If you get angry prematurely, then what is the point?

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: National honour seems to be up for auction (*Interruptions*).

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Mr. Malkani, the Minister is saying that you are so old. Are you old?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): The hon. Minister wanted to say that he is a senior Member of this House. Now let the hon. Minister complete his statement.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: I am not old. I am young. (*Interruptions*). The House is being misled. The country's honour is being auctioned. (Interruption) Mr. Minister, listen to me. In Delhi, advertisements are....

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Malkani, kindly hear me.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: On 26th January I was ashamed to find markers indicating as to where to go, which bridge to cross, and these were carrying pepsi advertisement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Malkani, please sit down. The whole House is agitated about it.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: They were carrying pepsi advertisement. Don't you feel ashamed? (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Let the Minister complete.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: When there is anything auspicious, we break a coconut, why should they uncork a bottle. ...(*Interruptions*) ... of this Government has some sense of shame, some sense of honour, this must not be. He is saying that the Presiding Officers are taking a decision. He can also say that there is no Vice-President. ...(*Interruptions*). ..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Let him complete. Mr. Minister, you address the Chair.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I completely share the agony and anguish expressed by all the Members of the House. As Government, we are not aware of this at all. I am not therefore able to even contradict or confirm. (*Interruptions*)....

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: How is this possible? You are the I&B Minister and you don't read these reports. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: All the newspapers are carrying these reports. 'Freedom Salvo' is printed on the bottle and you say you don't know... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: What is your PIB man doing? Is he not giving you information? ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): What is happening here? It is all the more shameful... (*Interruptions*)...Please sit down all of you .. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Sir...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Malkani, please sit down...(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am in agreement with you...(*Interruptions*) .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Let the Minister complete. He is not yielding...(*Interruptions*)... Have some courtesy ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am not only in agreement with you but I also share your agitation. But you are not allowing me to express even my agitation. What am I to do? I would like to clarify one thing. My I&B Ministry does not monitor what appears in the Press...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You have a staff which is supposed to keep you informed...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Since you have brought certain disturbing facts to the notice of the entire House, we thank you for that. We will see that nothing of these things happen. But at any rate we have not been taken into confidence. So far as the House is concerned, the presiding officers and the leaders of all political parties always matter. The Government fit for?...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: This Government is ignorant. This Government is divided. What is this Government fit for?...(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): The hon. Minister is trying to say that any function in the Parliament premises is under the administrative control of the hon. Speaker...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The whole country knows what is in the Press. But they say that they don't know. The Prime Minister was rung up and he said he did not know about it. They don't read newspapers. What do they read?... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Things are more serious than they appear... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Let there be no function of this drink inside the Parliament. We don't want to see any bottle here... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to assure the Members that nothing of this will happen within the premises...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: The hon. Minister is giving information to us that the chairman of the House is deciding the matter. Fortunately or unfortunately, we do not have a Chairman here. The normal practice is that when the President speaks, the Vice-President translates that speech in Hindi and speaks. Since the Vice-President is not there, since the Chairman is not there, in the normal course, the Deputy Chairman should have been asked to speak. But she has been denied this privilege and somebody else is going to translate the speech. Things are not as simple as they are made out to be... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I don't think it would be proper for us to discuss the details of the function. The hon. Minister has given an assurance that if it was true, then that would not happen. I think we should now put an end to this issue... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Lata Mangeshkar has made a commitment to advertise it. You have to take her off the programme so that there is no problem... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I think there is an assurance of the Government to that effect... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI (Madhya Pradesh): As per the information we have received, the hon. Speaker is not consulting the Deputy Chairperson of this House... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I think we should close this matter. It is not for the Chair to give judgment on this issue. These issues have to be discussed at a different forum. I think we can sort out this issue at a different forum. Now I will call the next speaker... (*Interruptions*)

RE: POLICE FIRING ON DALIT WOMEN AT PARAMAKKUDI IN TAMIL NADU

*SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak about the incident of police firing of Paramakkudi in Tamilnadu in which a dalit girl panchavarnam had died.

A couple of days back, when one Vellaichamy was tending his sheep, he was murdered and his sheep were taken away by some unidentified persons. Without tracing the real culprits, the police had gone to Ponnaiapuram village and tortured the dalit people there. Even the Ramanathapuram district Secretary of CPI(M), Mr. Karuppuraj has condemned this incident.

In the early hours of 4th August, hundreds of armed policemen descended on Ponnaiapuram village and began attacking dalit people and damaged their houses. They had arrested 32 dalits and taken them to police station without any valid reason. The policemen had kicked and injured a small child mercilessly. The child is still in hospital. They also pulled women out of their houses by their hair. One Amudha who was sleeping with her 9 month old infant was also assaulted and the policemen stamped their feet on her chest. (*Interruptions*) Very sorry...very sorry Mr. Duraisamy. The Minister is there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Duraisamy, let him have his say. You can associate later. Please sit down. (*Interruption*)

SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Sir, I am sorry that Mr. Duraisamy is pleading in favour of such atrocities by the

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.